



EXHIBIT 3
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HB 2

Leading Quality Addiction Treatment in the Northern Rockies

January 30, 2009

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Rimrock Foundation

I am here today representing Rimrock Foundation as one of the key providers in the Residential Treatment Expansion Consortium that was authorized by the 2007 Montana Legislature. We initiated the intensive short-term stabilization and treatment component of this project in January of 2008. We have also been the contracted source together with Harder Associates in Washington State for the Evaluation component of this project.

The RTEC project represents the first time that Montana invested general fund dollars in the community-based addiction treatment system. Prior to this, only federal dollars have funded what have been a limited system of outpatient services and some state-contracted inpatient beds. With this project, we have been able to address the need for longer term treatment and supportive services that drugs like methamphetamine generate.

What I would like to draw your attention to today are some of the data and results that have accrued from this project and to respond to any questions you may have. Each of you should have received the Outcome Findings report and hopefully you have reviewed or have questions. We believe that funding decisions should be based upon results—and this project is producing the kind of results that warrant continuation. We acknowledge that our sample is relatively small due to the short duration of the project thus far, however, all trends are moving in the right direction.

Seven key outcome indicators were selected against which our results are measured in this project, based upon the National Outcome Measures recommended by the federal agencies responsible for substance abuse services:

1. Increase the employment status of RTEC Patients by 40%
2. Reduce the Use of substances by 70%
3. Decrease involvement in the criminal Justice system by 50% including days of incarceration.
4. Assure that RTEC patients have safe, stable housing
5. Increase the social connectedness of patients
6. Increase retention in treatment to assure an adequate length of stay
7. Measure the satisfaction levels of the RTEC patients with services

The benefit to our communities and state when an unemployed homeless addicted person receives the treatment they need, acquires safe stable housing and becomes employed is obvious. There is a direct cost-benefit to our tax base, to the criminal justice system and to families. In fact, for every dollar being spent on the RTEC project, there is at a minimum a \$4.00 return on the investment. If the patient is also an offender with more than 4 arrests and incarceration, the return on investment is more-- \$1.00 - \$8.00. These returns are possible only with quality treatment of sufficient duration which is the chief characteristic of this project. Too often you are asked to make funding decisions in the absence of this kind of performance measurement.

I would be happy to answer any questions.